

Tiverton Conservation Commission  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Town Hall  
July 18, 2006

**Members Present:** T. Ramotowski (chair), S. Hardy (vice chair), P. Sullivan (treasurer), L. McGreavy, A. Cruickshank

**Members Absent:** R. Elder, P. Bolduc

**Guests/ Public Delegations:** Duncan Merriman

I. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June 20, 2006 regular meeting were approved unanimously and without amendment.

II. Treasurer's Report: A \$1,500.00 appropriation was credited to the Commission's 2006/2007 new fiscal year budget.

III. New Business: T. Ramotowski was reelected as chair, S. Hardy was reelected as vice chair and P. Sullivan was reelected as treasurer. All were unanimous.

The Commission's Goals for the new fiscal year were approved unanimously.

A Commissioner appreciation luncheon, generously provided by Mr. Ramotowski, will be held at Four Corner's Grill in August, date TBA.

Annual dues (\$100) to the R.I. Association of Conservation Commissions (RIACC) were approved and a member of RIACC's Board of Directors will be invited to visit the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioners were reminded to make nominations for the Annual Conservation Awards.

RIDEM's Office of Water Resources is requesting applications for Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Grants and Narragansett Bay & Watershed Restoration Fund Grants with applications due 09/15/06. The Commission may apply for support for a Fogland wetlands study.

IV Old Business: The Commission has certain responsibilities under the Town's stormwater management plan. Ms. McGreavy is organizing stenciling of drains on 07/29 and 08/05 using a format developed by Save the Bay. High School students will assist. Meanwhile, Ms. Bolduc will work with local businesses to help them minimize any pollution that may now be entering the Bay via storm drains.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to get on the agenda of an upcoming Council meeting to seek guidance on how to proceed with new draft ordinance language

concerning noise, stone wall conservation, outdoor lighting/streetlights. There is growing concern that the delay in moving forward with these draft ordinances, especially the outdoor lighting ordinance, could allow additional flashing/internally illuminated signs to be erected in Town.

Reflecting the Commission's longstanding & unanimous opposition to the illegal flashing signage at the Moose Café and the likely prospect for a proliferation of similar signage elsewhere in town, the Commission unanimously agreed once again to call this matter to the Council's attention at the 07/24 Council meeting and to state that if the current Zoning Ordinance prohibition on flashing signage is not adequate to prohibit flashing signage, then there is an urgent need to tighten the Zoning language.

It was noted that the Council approved the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Ordinance with a minor amendment at the Council's 07/17 meeting.

Mr. Merriman reported to the Commission that illegal camping is frequently occurring at Fogland, and that vehicles are parking on the dunes. He also noted open fires & noise from motorcycles and jet skis.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the Garden Club has chosen several litter prevention posters drawn by local students. The Litter Committee will place these posters in local businesses and other venues.

Ms. McGreavy discussed options for making wetland alteration permit applications available to the Commission in a timely manner. Often, the Commission learns of an application only after the permit has already been issued. She also noted that a wetland alteration permit application has been submitted to DEM for the Bouchard property on Main Road near the Starwoods Project.

The Commission will co-sponsor and publicize the Private Well Water Protection Workshop on 08/28 at the High School from 7 to 9pm. The workshop will be conducted by URI's Cooperative Extension Service.

It was noted that the cost of the pollution clean-up on Bay Street and nearby is estimated at \$55 million.

There was no news about or discussion of the following agenda items: Stafford Pond protection, Landfill, Stone Bridge Waterfront Improvement task Force, St. James Convent, Rivera/Nanaquaket Bridge Improvements, LNG terminal proposal for Weaver's Cove & Dam safety monitoring.

V: Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted: S. Hardy

